

Week Ending Friday, July 5, 2002

**Remarks and an Exchange With  
Reporters on Departure for  
Camp David, Maryland**

*June 28, 2002*

***President's Health***

**Q.** Mr. President, what's the story?

**The President.** Hold on, I'll tell you.

As you know, I've been recommending that Americans take precautionary measures for their health and that people should be screened on a regular basis, particularly those of us over 50. And tomorrow I'm going to have a colonoscopy at Camp David. It is the third such procedure I've had. The doctor has recommended I have another one because the last time, they found some benign polyps. And so this is kind of a routine physical examination that will be done at Camp David.

I'm going—I'm going to be sedated for a period of time and will transfer power to the Vice President during that time. And I look forward to exercising tomorrow afternoon, after the procedure takes place.

**Q.** Do you know how long it's going to be, sir?

**The President.** Well, it's—you know, the last time I did this, it wasn't very long. I mean, the definition of long—the docs will be briefing here pretty soon. But you know, it shouldn't take too long to—

**Q.** Is there anything that triggered this?

**The President.** No, not at all, John [John Roberts, CBS News]. I feel great. This is a part of the ongoing—you know, it's a kind of part of the annual physical. And so I just decided to do it at this time; it fit in with my schedule. And I feel great—no signs, no symptoms.

The last time we did one of these colonoscopies, they found benign polyps, and they recommended that—I think it was 2 years ago, and they recommended they take another look and see if there's anything in there.

**Q.** Should we read anything into the fact that you are going to transfer the power, the length of time of this?

**The President.** No, not at all. It's just that I made the decision. We looked at the precedent. I'm the first President to have done so under this type of procedure and/or physical examination. I did so because we're at war, and I just want to be super—you know, super cautious.

And I informed the Vice President of this, and he's fully prepared to—standing by. He'll realize he's not going to be President that long. *[Laughter]*

**Q.** Is he back in Washington, sir?

**The President.** He is. Yes, he is.

**Q.** What time will you be doing this tomorrow?

**The President.** Well, the time is—you know, I really don't want to put out a time, and I hope you understand why.

**Q.** Where's the Vice President, here?

**The President.** He'll be—I'm not sure where he'll be.

**Press Secretary Ari Fleischer.** We'll hold a briefing. We'll fill you in.

**The President.** Yes, I need to find out where he's—

**Q.** Any family history of colon cancer?

**The President.** Let's see, not really. Well, my brother—yes, I had a brother who had colitis. And so there's some history there.

I do recommend and urge that people take—get these precautionary tests and take a look. I had my first “scope,” as we say in the business, I think maybe 5 or 6 years ago. They discovered polyps for the first time. And it gets your attention a little bit. Fortunately, they were benign. And I think it's important to continue to get good checkups, and that's what this is about.

So anyway, I'm glad to be able to share that with you. *[Laughter]* Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **Statement on Signing the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002**

*June 28, 2002*

I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 327, the “Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002.” This legislation will help achieve an important objective of my Administration to reduce the cost and burden on small businesses of government paperwork and increase the resources available to small businesses to create jobs and economic growth.

Section 3 of the bill creates a new section 3520 in title 44 of the United States Code to create an interagency task force on information collection and dissemination to help the heads of departments and agencies reduce the government burden on small businesses. Section 3520 purports to require task force publication of differences in views among executive officers and transmittal of recommendations to congressional committees. The executive branch shall construe section 3520 in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch, to protect the confidentiality of executive deliberations, and to recommend to the consideration of the Congress such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
June 28, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 327, approved June 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107–198. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

### **The President’s Radio Address**

*June 29, 2002*

Good morning. This week, we learned of another deeply troubling accounting scandal at a major American corporation. Reports al-

lege that the company hid nearly \$4 billion in expenses and reported profits when it may have actually lost more than a billion dollars. The Securities and Exchange Commission immediately filed suit against the company to preserve documents so that a complete and thorough investigation can take place and to ensure that the company cannot give massive payments to executives during the investigation.

Despite recent abuses of the public’s trust, our economy remains fundamentally sound and strong, and the vast majority of businesspeople are living by the rules. Yet, confidence is the cornerstone of our economic system, so a few bad actors can tarnish our entire free enterprise system. We must have rules and laws that restore faith in the integrity of American business. The Government will fully investigate reports of corporate fraud and hold the guilty parties accountable for misleading shareholders and employees. Executives who commit fraud will face financial penalties, and when they are guilty of criminal wrongdoing, they will face jail time.

In March, I unveiled a 10-point plan designed to enhance the economic security of Americans by providing better information to investors, making corporate officers more accountable, and delivering a stronger, more independent auditing system. Among other measures, the plan would give the Securities and Exchange Commission two critical tools to hold corporate officers accountable.

First, corporate officers who personally benefit from false accounting statements should lose all the money gained by their fraud. An executive whose salary or bonus is tied to his company’s performance makes more money when the company has done well. That is fair when all of the accounting is done aboveboard. Yet, when bad accounting practices make the company appear to be more successful than it actually is, corporate executives should lose their phony profits gained at the expense of employees and stockholders.

Second, corporate leaders who violate the public’s trust should never be given that trust